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MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Wisconsin Avenue Bridge Will Close for Repairs
Monday, October 3rd**

The rehabilitation of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge over the Milwaukee River will commence on Monday, October 3, 2011. The bridge will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic while remaining open to river navigational traffic at all times. Traffic detour routing will be posted. Pedestrian wayfinding information, including use of the existing skywalks and riverwalks, will be provided. In addition, Milwaukee County Transit has posted their bus route detours. The Wisconsin Avenue closure will extend from North Plankinton Avenue to North Water Street, however access to adjacent businesses will be maintained at all times. The project is scheduled to be completed by August 3, 2012.

The movable bridge was built in 1975. This vertical lift bridge design is similar to other downtown river bridges and has a center section that lifts open to river traffic. Due to harsh river environments and continued deterioration of steel components, major rehabilitation is required.

This bridge rehabilitation project is being done in conjunction with the reconstruction of the Juneau Avenue Bridge, which started earlier this year. The \$25 million cost of both bridge projects is being partially funded with \$21.5 million dollars under the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program administered through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). The remainder of project costs is covered by the WisDOT bridge program and City of Milwaukee funds. The WisDOT awarded a design build contract for both bridges earlier this year to Edward Kraemer and Sons, Inc., with a Wisconsin regional office in Plain, Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Avenue Bridge work will include rehabilitation of the structural, electrical, hydraulic, and mechanical elements of the bridge additionally, complete removal and replacement of the existing roadway deck, railings, and walkways. Supporting steel structural elements will be repaired, cleaned, and painted. Minor repairs to concrete piers and abutments will be completed.

Upon completion, the rehabilitation of the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge over the Milwaukee River will provide many years of reliable service for river, vehicular and pedestrian traffic.